

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /088 W

----- 107849

R 301228Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9812

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE ROLE ON ERITREAN ISSUE

REF: STATE 100021

1. DURING MEETING THIS AM WITH FONMIN USEC MIRGHANI, I REFERRED TO OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN FURTHERANCE NEGOTIATING PROCESS ON ERITREAN QUESTION (REFTEL) AND ASKED RE STATUS. MIRGHANI REPLIED THERE LITTLE NEW. NIMEIRI HAD TOLD PLF/ELF REPS HERE (KHARTOUM 1014) THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS AROUND ASMARA HAD BEEN MISTAKE AND THAT ERITREANS COULD NOT WIN MILITARILY. HE CLAIMED PRESIDENT HAS ALSO PASSED WORD TO EPMG THAT ERITREA CANNOT BE SUBDUED BY FORCE.

2. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, MIRGHANI INDICATED HE DOUBTED ELF/PLF WOULD SOON BE ABLE SUBMERGE THEIR DIFFERENCES.  
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HE WONDERED WHY THIS SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TO EPMG AS

PRECONDITION TO DIRECT TALKS, SINCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DIVIDED ADVERSARY COULD PROVE MORE REWARDING. IN ANY CASE, IT LOGICAL TO EXPECT EPMG, AS THE MAJOR PARTY AND DULY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT, TO MAKE FIRST MOVE TO GET TALKS GOING. HE HOPED THIS WOULD SOON OCCUR BUT ADDIS WAS SLOW. SUDANESE HAD ERRED IN TAKING SO LONG TO BEGIN TALKS ON SOUTHERN PROBLEM, AND GOS HAS BEEN POINTING OUT TO BOTH SIDES THAT THIS MISTAKE SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED RE ERITREA.

3. MIRGHANI COMMENTED THAT HE WAS CHEERED THAT ATTITUDE CALL ARAB STATES ON ISSUE WAS EVOLVING CONSTRUCTIVELY. SOME COUNTRIES HAD OPENLY SUPPORTED NIMEIRI'S INITIATIVE AND HE NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS APPLIED TO USG. I REPLIED THAT WE WERE NATURALLY INTERESTED IN ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THAT GOS MIGHT NOT HAVE FOUND A PUBLIC USG ENDORSEMENT HELPFUL. MIRGHANI HASTILY AGREED.

4. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD ETHIO/SUDANESE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WOULD SHORTLY MEET KHARTOUM AND ASKED WHETHER ERITREAN ISSUE MIGHT BE PURSUED THEN. MIRGHANI RESPONDED THAT GOS NOW "CONSIDERING" ETHIOPIAN PROPOSAL FOR MEETING "AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL" BUT HE THOUGHT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. IN ANY CASE, SUCH COMMITTEE WAS LIMITED TO CONSIDERATION BORDER QUESTION ONLY.

5. COMMENT. WHILE I AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL THAT WE HAVE AT BOTTOM SUPPORTED SUDANESE INITIATIVE (PARA 4 ADDIS 5079), I HAVE AT NO STAGE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SO INFORM OOS. AS I EXPECTED, MIRGHANI INTERPRETED MQ ABOVE COMMENTS IN THIS SENSE AND SEEMED GRATIFIED THEREWITH. STATE REFTEL WAS ACCORDINGLY MOST HELPFUL IN PROVIDING EMBASSY WITH OFFICIAL GUIDANCE RE OUR CURRENT ATTITUDE.  
BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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